

## Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 /074 W

----- 024236

O R 111430Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1559

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1934

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BB

SUBJ: CUBANA CRASH: LOCAL PRESS COMMENT

1. UNTIL YESTERDAY OCT. 10), LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF CUBANA CRASH HAD BEEN STRAIGHT-FORWARD, LOW-KEY, AND WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE US ROLE IN CUBANA CRASH. HOWEVER, LAST TWO DAYS HAVE SEEN APPEARANCE IN ADVOCATE-NEWS (BARBADOS' ONLY DAILY) OF FOUR ARTICLES TOUCHING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON QUESTIONS OF US-CUBAN RELATIONS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST OPERATIONS.

2. EDITORIAL IN YESTERDAY'S ADVOCATE-NEWS STATED, IN EFFECT, THAT CASTRO'S CHICKENS HAD COME HOME TO ROOST: "WHEN IT SUITED PRESIDENT (SIC) CASTRO TO EMBARRASS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, HE ALLOWED ASYLUM IN CUBA TO AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS. HE HAS SINCE ALTERED HIS STANCE, BUT THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE AND THE WHEEL HAS NOW COME FULL CIRCLE BUT WITH AN ADDED VICIOUSNESS." EDITORIAL ALSO STATED: "WE HAVE HAD OUR INITIAL FIRST HAND LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL

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GANGSTERISM AND ITS HORRIFYING MACHINATIONS. IT HAS BEEN

SHATTERINGLY DEMONSTRATED THAT BARBADOS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED WITHOUT INTERFERENCE TO GO HER OWN WAY UNATTACKED BY THE VIOLENCE ATTACHING TO DIVERGENT HARDLINE TOTALITARIAN IDEOLOGIES."

3. ON SAME PAGE OF SAME PAPER, POLITICAL COMMENTATOR LAWSON BAILEY ALLEGES: "IT IS A FACT THAT IF THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN - INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES - WANTED TO CONTROL GANGSTERISM IN THE AREA THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER CONTROLLED A LONG TIME AGO. UNFORTUNATELY, THE UNITED STATES HAS THIS CUBAN THING STUCK IN ITS THROAT AND AS A RESULT ALL OF US ARE FEELING HOW UNCOMFORTABLE IT CAN BE."

4. TODAY'S ADVOCATE-NEWS CARRIES REUTER-CANA REPORT DATED HAVANA, WHICH CONTAINS FOLLOWING QUOTE FROM GRAMMA: "IT IS HISTORICALLY PROVEN THAT THE YANKEE CIA HAS BEEN THE MAIN FACTOR OF CO-ORDINATION, FINANCING, DIRECTION AND TRAINING OF THESE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS ACTING AGAINST THE CUBAN REVOLUTION."

5. ANOTHER, LOCAL REPORT IN TODAY'S PAPER QUOTES GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS (WHO CAME HERE OCTOBER 9 IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATION OF CRASH) AS FOLLOWS: "THE MEN (WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN TRINIDAD) ARE CUBAN EXILES AND THEIR JOBS (SIC) ARE NOT AUTHORISED BY ANY GOVERNMENT."

6. TO DATE, NEITHER I NOR ANY MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY THE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH CUBANA CRASH. RANDOM COMMENT HERE DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT BARBADIAN PUBLIC HOLDS US TO BLAME IN ANYWAY FOR THIS AFFAIR.

8. IN VIEW OF BAYLEY COMMENTARY AND REUTER-CANA REPORT, I PROPOSE SEND LETTER TO ACTING MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SETTING FORTH OFFICIAL U.S. POSITIONS ON TERRORIST ACTS PER OCTOBER 8 PRESS GUIDANCE. I WOULD ONLY MAKE STATEMENT TO PRESS IF THEME OF U.S. COMPLICITY SHOULD BE GIVEN GREATER PLAY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** EAIR, SOPN, BB, CU, US, CUBANA AIRLINES  
**To:** STATE  
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